

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 IO-13 /127 W

----- 011386

R 211456Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 575

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ELAB SW

SUBJECT: MID-AUGUST UNEMPLOYMENT UP. GOVT FOLLOWS ELECTION
STRATEGY OF BEST DEFENSE IS GOOD OFFENSE

REF: STOCKHOLM 2835

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED REGISTERED WITH LABOR MARKET BOARD (AMS) IN MID-AUGUST UP 8000 OVER MID-JULY TO ALMOST 60,000. WOMEN AND YOUTH RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF INCREASE. FIGURE 2,000 LESS THAN AUGUST 72, BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN HIGHER EXCEPT FOR DELIBERATE GOVT POLICY TO HOLD UNEMPLOYMENT BELOW AUG/SEPT 72 LEVELS THROUGH LIBERAL USE OF RELIEF WORKS AND SUBSIDIZED SHELTERED WORKSHOPS. EIGHT THOUSAND ADDED TO THESE ROLLS AND THUS NOT COUNTED AS UNEMPLOYED BETWEEN MID-JULY AND MID-AUGUST. NUMBER OF AVAILABLE JOBS LISTED WITH AMS DROPPED 1300 TO 39,000 BUT WAS STILL 4000 MORE THAN IN AUGUST 72. SOCDEM STRATGEY IS TO COUNTER POLITICALLY VOLATILE UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUE BY EMPHASIZING IMPROVEMENT IN CURRENT SITUATION OVER AUGUST 72 AND BY IMPLICITLY BLAMING EMPLOYERS FOR REMAINING JOBLESSNESS.
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2. PRIMIN PALME, IN CAMPAIGN SPEECH IN SUBURBAN STOCKHOLM, THE REGION WHICH HAS SUFFERED THE LARGEST IMCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYED THIS STRATEGY TO MUCH APPLAUSE AUGUST 20 BY AGAIN INSISTING EMPLOYERS TRAIN AND HIRE OUT-OF-WORK SWEDES BEFORE SEEKING TO IMPORT FOREIGN LABOR. RECENT REQUEST BY VOLVO TO IMPORT WORKERS FOR NEW SKOVDE ENGINE PLANT SERVING AS SOCDEM CASE-IN-POINT, EVEN THOUGH VOLVO REQUEST MADE ONLY AFTER EXTENSIVE RECRUITING CAMPAIGN FAILED TO TURN UP ENOUGH SWEDISH JOB APPLICANTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COMMENT:

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RESULTS OF THE STATISTICAL BUREAU SEPTEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT SURVEY MAY BE READY IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE SEPT 16 ELECTION DATE, GIVING A LAST MINUTE READING OF THIS IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN ISSUE. UNTIL THEN, BOTH SIDES WILL CITE THE AUGUST FIGURES, THE OPPOSITION TO CHARGE THAT THE GOVT HAS NOT SOLVED THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM, THE SOCDEMS TO SHOW THAT THE CORNER HAS BEEN TURNED AND THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IS DEMONSTRABLY BETTER THAN ONE YEAR AGO.
OLSEN

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